

Kelly's open up about marriage in book

Updated: Friday, 03 Sep 2010, 6:15 PM EDT

Published : Friday, 03 Sep 2010, 6:15 PM EDT

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BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB) - His short life touched countless others and inspired a new push for universal newborn disease screening. Now, Jim and Jill Kelly are telling the story of their son Hunter through a new book.

The book, "Without a Word," is about a lot more than the Kelly's valiant battle with a terminal disease. It tells the story few people know about the Kelly's heartbreak and redemption, and the faith that got them through it all.

While it is Jill Kelly's memoirs of her life with Hall of Fame quarterback Jim Kelly that make up "Without a Word," the book really revolves around their only son, Hunter, and how his short time on this earth transformed them through faith.

"Because Hunter was the catalyst to my life changing, to Jim's life changing, to our marriage being renewed and restored, to our girls being the kind of people that they are today, to our family staying together," said Jill.

While most of the world knows the Kelly's storybook life from Jim's glory years with the Buffalo Bills, hooking up with a former model, Jill Kelly lays out the ugly truth about a strained marriage with a sports superstar, and his infidelities.

Jill said, "The truth really hurts sometimes, but the truth also sets you free. And I believe that."

Then the horror of Hunter's brave battle with Krabbe Disease and Jim Kelly coming clean to Jill, during counseling about his marital indiscretions.

"I sat down with Jill, I told her what I've done, I did ask for forgiveness for a second time, but the thing is, I knew that I couldn't hide behind it anymore. I knew I didn't want to hide behind it anymore," said Jim.

The Kelly's story is also about love, grace and forgiveness, Jill and their oldest daughter Erin forgiving Jim, and Jim's realization that without grace and forgiveness he might never see Hunter again in heaven. This book should prove to be an inspiration for families struggling to keep it together.

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